

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00812 231207Z

47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OCL-00 DHA-02

IO-10 SCCT-01 /095 W

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R 230800Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3586

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: KAGNEW II

REF: ASMARA 0798 (DTG 181202Z SEP 75)

1. TWO ETHIOPIAN GUARDS FROM KAGNEW TRACT DELTA, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED WITH KAGNEW II ON NIGHT OF SEPT. 12, APPEARED FOR WORK AT TRACT ECHO MONDAY (SEPT 22). WHEN ASKED ABOUT SEPT. 12 INCIDENT, THEY GAVE VAGUE AND CONFUSED ACCOUNT. THEY CLAIMED THAT AT 2200, SEVEN ELF TROOPS BROKE DOWN FRONT GATE OF TRACT DELTA, SEIZED U.S. AND ETHIOPIAN WORKERS, AND LED THEM OFF INTO DARKNESS. GUARDS CLAIM THEY
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00812 231207Z

WERE ABLE TO FLEE IN CONFUSION. REASON THEY GAVE FOR NOT

COMING FORWARD EARLIER WAS THAT THEY FLED INTO SURROUNDING HILLS AND HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR VILLAGE. OIC NAVCOMMUNIT IS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL ABOUT GUARDS' STORY AS THEY CLAIM ATTACK BEGAN AT 2200 WHEN, IN FACT, THAT WAS CONFIRMED TIME OF EXPLOSIONS IN POWER PLANT. GUARDS MADE NO MENTION OF EXPLOSIONS, WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE HEARD. IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT AS LIFELONG INHABITANTS OF THAT AREA THAT THEY HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING THEIR WAY HOME. MOST LIKELY GUARDS LEFT SITE EARLIER TO CELEBRATE ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR WITH FAMILY IN THEIR VILLAGE SOME DISTANCE FROM TRACT DELTA, AND THEIR STORY IS FEEBLE COVER FOR THEIR ABSENCE. OIC INFORMED 2ND DIV CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. TELAHUN, OF GUARDS' RETURN AND ALLOWED HIM TO INTERVIEW BOTH GUARDS, THUS IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH TELAHUN.

2. COPY OF AUGUST 16 FRONT STATEMENT (REFTEL) WAS PASSED TO SENIOR USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 21 IN EVIDENT EXPECTATION IT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF CONGEN. APPARENTLY THIS STATEMENT, AS WELL AS PICTURES OF DESTRUCTION AT TRACT DELTA (POSSIBLE REPRODUCED FROM PHOTOS TAKEN BY PA&E TECHNICIAN AND PROCESSED LOCALLY) ARE CIRCULATING WIDELY IN ASMARA.

3. ON SATURDAY, TWO ETHIOPIAN CIVILIAN GUARDS EMPLOYED AT TRACT DELTA RETURNED TO SITE SATURDAY EVENING WITHOUT CONSULTING ANYONE, AFTER EPMG SECURITY FORCE HAD WITHDRAWN, OSTENSIBLY TO SECURE REMAINING EQUIPMENT. ON OPENING MAIN GATE, BOOBY TRAP EXPLODED SERIOUSLY INJURING ONE AND SLIGHTLY INJURING OTHER. GIVEN EVENTS OF SEPT. 17, ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE AS TO WHOM EPMG EXPECTED TO TRIGGER THIS SURPRISE PACKAGE.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (HARRELL, JAMES J)
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